



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012**

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

10:00 AM

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson Montaña, Commissioner Bigby, Commissioner Hall
and Commissioner Moore

Excused: Vice Chairperson Bacio and Commissioner Hill

The Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence will be led by Chairperson.

**Chairperson Montaña led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed with a
moment of silence followed with self introductions.**

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Meeting to be called to order by Chairperson Montaña. (11-4120)

Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. Approval of the September 14, 2011 Minutes. (11-4121)

**On motion of Commissioner Bigby, seconded by Commissioner Moore,
unanimously carried, the minutes of the meetings of September 14, 2011
were approved.**

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

3. **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

Department of Auditor-Controller
Department of Children and Family Services
Internal Services Department
Department of Mental Health
Probation Department
Sheriff's Department (11-4122)

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Elizabeth Howard, CSA III, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), reported that no new holds were placed on Group Homes for this reporting period; there were 10 physical abuse referrals of which three were evaluated out and seven are still pending; there were seven general neglect referrals of which seven were evaluated out; one referral of emotional is pending; one unfounded referral for at risk; she also reported that during the period of August 16, 2011 through September 20, 2011, there were 427 reports of Group Home children being absent without leave (AWOLS), and Phillip Browning is now the Interim Director of DCFS.

Following discussion, Chairperson Montaña asked Ms. Howard if an updated version of the "Peter Degree Manual" of instructions for Group Home providers was available. In response to Chairperson Montaña, Ms. Howard stated that the manual have not been updated, she went on to say DCFS staff conduct monthly meetings with the providers, and that there are "Work Groups" which meet with the providers in order to train them on what is required in completing the Needs and Services Plans (NSP) of their Group Home clients.

Department of Auditor-Controller's Office

Ms. Cassandra Youngblood, Acting Group Home Ombudsman of the Auditor-Controller, reported that a client of Dream Catcher Group Home client is receiving counseling and wrap around services to assist her in coping with a traumatic experience. The client was placed in a smaller Group Home setting. She also stated that the Ombudsman's Office received a call from a 12 year old client from Bayfront Group Home client, complaining that she was in-appropriately restrained by a male staff member who caused the bruising on her face, this is the eight report of abuse involving the same facility.

Internal Services Department (ISD)

Mr. Michael Henderson, Division Manager, Maintenance Operation Division, Internal Service Department (ISD), reported that ISD is working with the Probation Department regarding the quality of water at Challenger Memorial Youth Center. He also reported that the youths are drinking bottled water, while the Departments seek alternate solutions to resolve the water quality issue.

Department of Mental Health

Paul McIver, District Chief, Countywide Children's Case Management Programs of the Department of Mental Health, reported that the Department is actively working with the school districts regarding the education of students requiring special care. A plan which uses the Federal statues relating to education should be in place and ready to be implemented by June 2012. The plan will redefine the method for managing behaviors. Mr. McIver, responding to Commissioner Hall's concerns regarding the lack of facilities for gays, lesbians and transgender youths, stated that his boss is working with a group in hopes of creating a National Program relating to the needs of gays, lesbians and transgender youth at Group Homes.

Probation Department

Ms. Pamela Pease, Acting Supervising Deputy Probation Officer of the Probation Department (PD), reported for the month of June 2011, there were a total of 89 Absent Without Leave (AWOL); 50 remain AWOL; 7 went to camp; 17 returned to Group Homes; 9 were placed in juvenile hall; one was placed on home probation; three were terminated out (aged out of system). There were eight investigations during the month of August 2011. Sonya Love Group Home hold will be released once corrective action plan have been signed off. All 2011 contract compliance monitoring review reports with the exception of one have been completed and are on the Department's website. She also reported there are 7 potential adoptions and 15 youth being considered for guardianship.

Sheriff's Department

Commander Cooper, Sheriff's Department, in response to Chairperson Montaño, stated that Judges do conduct Judicial Inspections of the Bellflower Courthouse Branch. He also commented that the Sheriff is working to change the culture or manner in which inmates are spoken to by staff, by using policy. Commander Cooper also provided the Commission with an inmate assault of staff and a use of force report.

- 4. Chairperson's Report on Various Items for September 21, 2011. (11-4123)**

There was no Chairperson's report.

5. Treasurer's Report for September 21, 2011. (11-4124)

There was no Treasurer's report.

6. Staff Report on Correspondence Received, and Department Representative Reports. (11-4125)

Ms. Nyla Jefferson, staff, Commission Services, informed the Commissioners that the County's mileage rate increased from 47.5 cents per mile driven to 52.0 cents per mile driven, and that the increase is temporary and will expire December 31, 2011.

7. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports. (11-4126)

Commissioners Bigby, Hall and Moore commented on the following Department of Children and Family Services Contract Compliance Monitoring Review Reports:

- **Rosemary Children's Services "Main Street" - (Commissioner Bigby)**
- **Washington Hancock Home "Wash-Hancock Home for Girls" and Touch A Life Foundation "Touch A Life Foundation #1" - (Commissioners Hall and Moore)**

8. Commissioners' Reports on Group Homes and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from September 15, 2011 to September 20, 2011. (11-4127)

During the reporting period the following Facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

- **Chairperson Montaña visited Downey Branch #101 on September 19, 2011 and the Bellflower Branch on September 20, 2011. Need X-Large Turnout Gear at Bellflower Branch.**

During this reporting period the following Audit Review of Group Homes were reported as being in full compliance:

- **Commissioner Bigby visited Rosemary Children's Services "Main Street" - 37 #1, on September 20, 2011.**
- **Commissioners Hall and Moore visited Washington Hancock Home "Wash-Hancock Home for Girls" - 44 #2, on September 15, 2011; and Touch A Life Foundation "Touch A Life Foundation #1" - 41 #2, on September 20, 2011.**

III. DISCUSSIONS

9. Discussion and Consideration of the Commission's Annual Holiday Gathering (Continued from September 14, 2011, and September 21, 2011). (11-4082)

Staff was asked to provide a list of restaurants at the next meeting for the Chair's review.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

10. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Commission subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (11-4128)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

11. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (11-4129)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

12. Adjournment for the meeting of September 21, 2011. (11-4130)

The September 21, 2011 meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.